

Press Release



August 2008

The Black List Project: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders and Elvis Mitchell, Exhibition of Photographs of Prominent African Americans along with Filmed Interviews, On View at Brooklyn Museum November 21, 2008 through March 29, 2009

Press Preview November 20, 2008

Serena Williams, Chris Rock, Colin Powell, Toni Morrison, Russell Simmons, Al Sharpton, Kareem-Abdul Jabbar, and Sean Combs are among the many African Americans whose faces are seen and voices heard in *The Black List Project: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders and Elvis Mitchell*, a highly personal documentary that explores being Black in America. Twenty-five portraits by internationally renowned photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, along with excerpts from a series of filmed interviews directed by Greenfield-Sanders and conducted by noted film critic Elvis Mitchell, will be presented in an exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum November 21, 2008 through March 29, 2009 .

The images, photographic and filmed, are the core of a collaboration between Greenfield-Sanders and Mitchell that has resulted in *Blacklist: Volume 1*, an HBO documentary that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008 and will debut nationally exclusively on HBO on August 25, 2008 (9-10:30 p.m. ET/PT); a multi-city Museum exhibition organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where it is on view August 3-October 26, 2008; and an accompanying book published by the Atria Books division of Simon & Schuster. The Brooklyn presentation is coordinated by Judy Kim, Curator of Exhibitions. The exhibition and the national tour are sponsored by Credit Suisse.

In addition to the twenty-five large scale portraits, including a stellar list of subjects from the worlds of politics, the arts, sports, religion, and business, there will be three flat screen monitors that will play selections from the HBO film on a continuous loop in the galleries. The entire film will be presented at various times, to be announced, throughout the run of the exhibition.

The project title derives its name from the 1950s Communist hunt led by the late Senator Joseph McCarthy, and plays on various connotations of the word *black*, through the experiences of the twenty-five subjects. Toni Morrison discusses her early interest in literature; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar recalls an encounter with Miles Davis; Lou Gossett, Jr. describes his difficulties in finding good film roles even after he was awarded an Oscar; Studio Museum of Harlem director Thelma Golden reflects on being mistaken as her own assistant; and Chris Rock satirizes Hollywood's idea of being African American.

Brooklyn Museum

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“Through these incomparable portraits by one of today’s most extraordinarily gifted photographers and the sensitive and probing interviews by one of America’s most important film critics, an intimate and unique view of what it is like to be Black in America today emerges. Their diverse voices reveal issues of society, family, and personal identity. We are proud to present this exceptional exhibition,” comments Museum Director Arnold L. Lehman.

“*The Black List Project* offers a unique, candid, and insightful window onto the personal stories of some of the leading figures of our time,” commented Peter C. Marzio, director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. “As lead organizer of the museum exhibition, the MFAH was committed to not only presenting the full scope of the project to Houston audiences, but to ensuring that the project would travel nationally. We’re enormously pleased that the Brooklyn Museum will be the first of several planned stops around the U.S.”

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders’ photographs are in the permanent collections of major museums, among them the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Brooklyn Museum. A contributing photographer to *Vanity Fair*, Greenfield-Sanders is also the producer and director of the Grammy award-winning 1997 film *Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart*.

Elvis Mitchell has hosted *The Treatment* since 1996, a nationally syndicated radio program produced at National Public Radio affiliate KCRW in Los Angeles. He is also entertainment critic of NPR’s *Weekend Edition*. Previously he was film critic for *The New York Times*, *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and *LA Weekly*.

Below is a complete list of photographs that will be included in the Brooklyn presentation:

Bill T. Jones	2007
Chris Rock	2007
Colin Powell	2007
Dawn Staley	2007
Faye Wattleton	2007
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	2007
Keenen Ivory Wayans	2007
Lorna Simpson	2007
Louis Gossett, Jr.	2007
Mahlon Duckett	2007
Marc Morial	2007
Reverend Al Sharpton	2007
Richard D. Parsons	2007
Russell Simmons	2007
Sean Combs	2008
Serena Williams	2008

Slash	2007
Steven Stoute	2007
Susan Rice	2007
Suzan-Lori Parks	2007
Thelma Golden	2006
Toni Morrison	2007
Vernon Jordan	2007
William Rice	2007
Zane	2007

A wide range of related public programs is planned in conjunction with the exhibition, with details to be announced.

Blacklist joins the Brooklyn fall exhibition schedule that comprises exhibitions focusing on contemporary art including *Gilbert & George* (October 3, 2008-January 11, 2009), *Jesper Just: Romantic Delusions* (September 19, 2008-January 4, 2009), an installation of three works by Petah Coyne (August 9-To be Announced), *21: Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum* (September 19, 2008-long-term), and *Burning Down the House: Building a Feminist Art Collection* (October 31, 2008- February 8 , 2009) .

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.